Indiana Crop & Weather Report

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CROP REPORT FOR WEEK ENDING OCTOBER 29

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY

Corn and soybean harvest continued to make good progress last week. Heavy dew and fog slowed morning harvesting activities in some areas. Many farmers have finished harvesting their soybean fields and are now concentrating on corn harvest. There were 6.4 **days** suitable for fieldwork. Corn harvest is 7 days ahead of average, but 8 days behind last year's pace. Soybean harvest is 2 days ahead of average, but 4 days behind a year ago at this time. Major activities during the week included harvesting corn and soybeans, hauling grain, seeding winter wheat, tilling soils, chopping stalks, applying fertilizer, spreading lime and care of livestock.

FIELD CROPS REPORT

Seventy-eight percent of the corn acreage has been **harvested** compared with 91 percent last year and 69 percent for the 5-year average. By region, 81 percent of the corn acreage is harvested in the north, 73 percent in the central region and 82 percent in the south. **Moisture** content of harvested corn is averaging around 17 percent.

Ninety-two percent of the soybean acreage is **harvested** compared with 96 percent last year and 90 percent for the average. By region, 97 percent of the soybean acreage is harvested in the north, 93 percent in the central region and 81 percent in the south. **Moisture** content of harvested soybeans is averaging 12 percent.

Ninety-one percent of the **winter wheat** acreage is **seeded**, on par with a year earlier, but ahead of the 89 percent for the average. Sixty-seven percent of the winter wheat acreage is **emerged** compared with 68 percent last year and 66 percent for the 5-year average. Winter wheat **condition** is rated 73 percent good to excellent compared with 63 percent a year ago at this time.

LIVESTOCK, PASTURE AND RANGE REPORT

Pasture condition is rated 10 percent excellent, 57 percent good, 26 percent fair, 6 percent poor and 1 percent very poor. Pasture remains in good condition. Livestock remain in mostly in good condition.

CROP PROGRESS TABLE

Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5-Year Avg
	Percent			
Corn Harvested	78	65	91	69
Soybeans Harvested	92	82	96	90
Winter Wheat Seeded	91	74	91	89
Winter Wheat Emerged	67	35	68	66

CROP CONDITION TABLE

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excel-lent
			Percent		
Pasture	1	6	26	57	10
Winter Wheat	0	2	25	55	18

SOIL MOISTURE & DAYS SUITABLE FOR FIELDWORK TABLE

	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
		Percent	
Topsoil			
Very Short	2	1	22
Short	13	8	45
Adequate	77	78	33
Surplus	8	13	0
Subsoil			
Very Short	6	5	35
Short	19	17	48
Adequate	68	68	17
Surplus	7	10	0
Days Suitable	6.4	5.8	6.8

CONTACT INFORMATION

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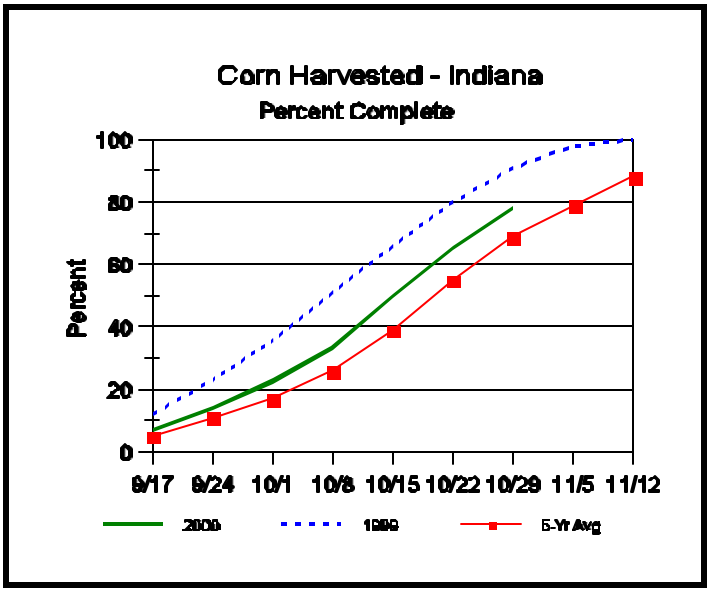
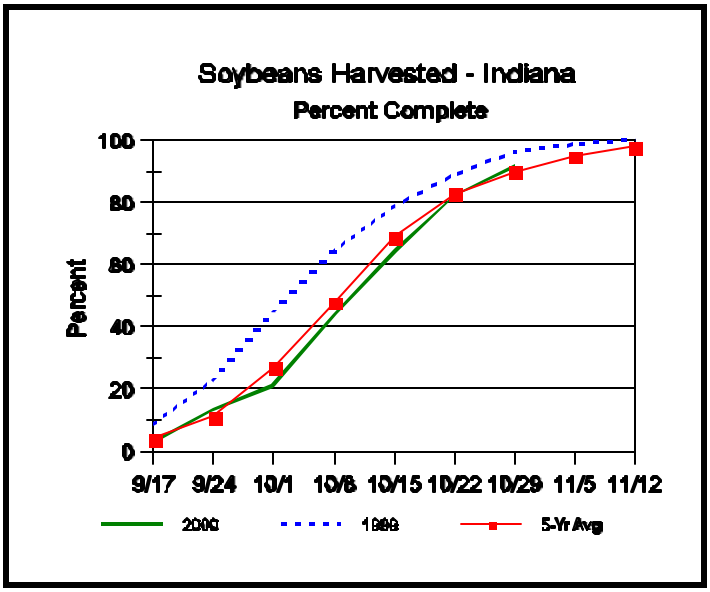
http://info.aes.purdue.edu/agstat/nass.html

Crop Progress

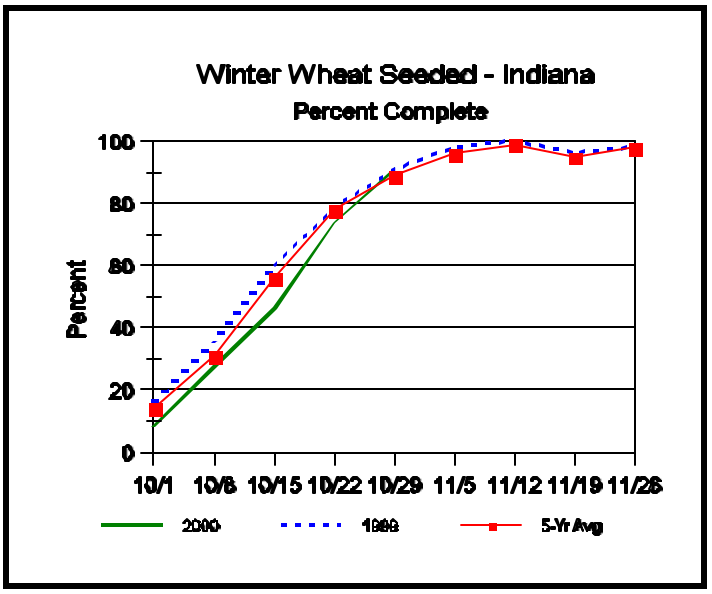




Other Agricultural Comments And News

Overwintering European Corn Borer Population

- 2000 statewide corn borer activity about the same as last year
- Next year's corn borer threat cannot be accurately predicted at this time
- Early-planted corn may attract first generation moths
- Second generation corn borer generally attacks late planted/pollinating fields
- Return on investment with Bt corn may depend on planting date along with other production practices/inputs
- Implement an ECB resistance management program with Bt corn



Ron Blackwell's overwintering European corn borer (ECB) survey is complete and statewide corn borer numbers are about the same as last year, although the areas of the state varied considerably from 1999 (see graphs and table at: http://www.entm.purdue.edu/entomology/ext/targets/p&c/P&C2000/P&C27_2000.pdf). When compared to 40 years of survey data, the 2000's overwintering population is about average. What does this mean for 2001?

Mature ECB larvae now nestled in crop residue around the state form the bulk of next year's threat to Indiana corn. However, environmental factors during the growing season, more than anything else, will determine whether this insect becomes an economic threat in 2001. Entomologists are cautious when making predictions since it is very difficult to accurately predict if an insect such as the corn borer will reach its biotic potential. Under optimal conditions, each female moth can produce over 400 eggs spread among many plants and fields!

Producers should carefully scrutinize production purchases for the upcoming season, including genetically modified seeds, i.e. Bt corn. Should one invest in this technology for 2001? Putting all other considerations aside, such as marketability of genetically modified crops and reduced technology fees, producers will need to consider the probability of corn borer occurring in their fields. The following is our best guess on the risk of economic corn borer damage in 2001.

(Continued on Page 4)

Weather Information Table

Week ending Sunday October 29, 2000

Station	Past Week Weather Summary Data							Accumulation				
								April 1, 2000 thru October 29, 2000				
	Air Temperature				Precip.		Avg 4 in Soil	Precipitation		GDD Base 50°F		
	Hi	Lo	Avg	DFN	Total	Days	Temp	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN
Northwest (1)												
Valparaiso_Ag	76	35	60	+12	0.50	2		27.20	+0.19	87	3011	+75
Wanatah	78	31	60	+13	0.61	2	63	28.09	+2.27	81	2844	+61
Wheatfield	78	34	62	+15	0.20	1		26.01	+1.18	67	3085	+246
Winamac	78	34	62	+15	0.13	1	61	24.92	+0.00	74	2999	+70
North Central (2)												
Logansport	78	36	62	+14	0.20	2		27.01	+2.74	80	3089	+63
Plymouth	76	32	61	+13	0.35	2		28.01	+2.30	85	2874	-212
South_Bend	75	34	61	+13	0.39	4		24.39	-0.73	88	2983	+91
Young_America	79	33	61	+13	0.07	1		24.79	+0.52	72	3166	+140
Northeast (3)												
Bluffton	77	32	61	+12	0.06	2	57	26.50	+2.79	81	3083	-47
Fort_Wayne	77	32	61	+13	0.14	2		27.58	+5.39	76	3071	+32
West Central (4)												
Crawfordsville	79	34	63	+14	0.10	2	61	28.00	+1.93	70	2995	-271
Perrysville	79	34	63	+14	0.14	3	64	26.00	+0.04	77	3266	+69
Terre_Haute_Ag	83	37	64	+14	0.00	0	64	35.70	+9.45	75	3737	+315
W_Lafayette_6NW	80	35	64	+16	0.97	3	60	22.90	-1.71	82	3243	+218
Central (5)												
Castleton	79	35	62	+13	0.09	1		34.03	+8.78	89	3262	-118
Greenfield	78	34	62	+13	0.19	2		33.38	+6.40	83	3291	+37
Greensburg	79	36	63	+14	0.00	0		33.36	+7.16	84	3413	+245
Indianapolis_AP	78	38	63	+14	0.03	2		28.91	+4.33	72	3509	+122
Indianapolis_SE	79	35	59	+9	0.12	2		31.86	+6.61	73	3180	-200
Tipton_Ag	78	34	60	+13	0.02	1	59	27.03	+1.66	74	2901	-24
East Central (6)												
Farmland	79	32	60	+13	0.06	2	56	31.88	+7.66	81	2987	+136
New_Castle	76	32	60	+13	0.06	1		30.00	+4.09	73	2688	-236
Southwest (7)												
Dubois_Ag	83	40	66	+15	0.00	0	65	29.74	+1.32	79	3730	+262
Evansville	83	43	67	+15	0.00	0		26.21	+1.21	74	4039	+94
Freelandville	82	40	66	+15	0.00	0		34.83	+8.84	65	3652	+116
Shoals	83	40	64	+14	0.00	0		33.43	+5.31	76	3470	+41
Vincennes_5NE	83	43	66	+15	0.00	0	61	36.50	+10.63	74	3699	+163
South Central (8)												
Bloomington	80	37	64	+12	0.00	0		34.35	+8.22	67	3334	-157
Tell_City	84	48	67	+15	0.00	0		28.50	+0.17	61	3957	+132
Southeast (9)												
Scottsburg	82	34	64	+14	0.00	0		34.50	+7.74	68	3639	+119

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).
GDD = Growing Degree Days.
Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.
Precipitation Days = Days with precipitation of 0.01 inch or more.
Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

First brood females are generally attracted to the tallest, greenest corn for egg laying – normally early-planted corn. This, coupled with conventionally tilled, and rotated fields and adequate soil fertility levels increases risk of first generation attack. Many producers traditionally plant certain fields first, e.g., fields close to the farmstead, well drained fields, etc. If these fields are expected to be ahead in their growth and development compared to neighboring corn the first week in June, then there is a greater likelihood of return on investment in Bt corn.

Predicting second, or even third generation populations and damage is impossible due to an extensive list of variables. Our advantage when dealing with second generation ECB is that we understand the pest's behavior enough to know that these later flights are attracted to actively pollinating corn – late planted or late-maturing corn. For late-planted fields the investment in Bt corn may pay for itself.

Producers who grow Bt corn must implement a resistance management program, that is, plant a corn borer refuge of non-Bt corn. Refuges should be planted within a half mile of the Bt corn at approximately the same time and with a similar maturity corn. Academia, industry, and producer organizations support the EPA requirement of a 20% refuge for the 2001 growing season. Neighbors planting non-Bt corn cannot be considered as providing the refuge for another producer. Without these refuges, which preserve genetic diversity of the corn borer population, this technology will likely be short lived. More specific information on resistance management is available from seed company agronomists.

The Economics of Bt Corn: Adoption Implications (ID-219), is an in depth look at this technology and analyzes the possible financial returns/losses with its use. It can be viewed at: <http://persephone.agcom.purdue.edu/~agcom/Pubs/agecon.htm#8>.

Source: John Obermeyer, Rich Edwards, and Larry Bledsoe, Dept. Of Entomology, Purdue University.

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